

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 COME-00
TRSE-00 NEA-10 AID-05 DODE-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 /088 W

-----108048 051141Z /12

O 050947Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2971

S E C R E T JAKARTA 10474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, ENRG, SF, ID, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN DIVERSIFICATION OF ITS SOURCES OF CRUDE OIL

REF: STATE 183260

1. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT WOULD CORROBORATE REFTTEL INTELLIGENCE REPORT. DISCRETE QUERY WITH PERTAMINA'S DIRECTOR OF OIL SALES REVEALS THAT INDONESIAN CRUDE DEALS WITH SOUTH AFRICA REMAIN "PROHIBITED." WE HAVE ALSO CHECKED WITH SOURCE IN PERTA OIL (PERTAMINA'S LOS ANGELES-BASED MARKETING AFFILIATE) TO SEE IF ANY INDONESIAN CRUDE IS BEING TERMINALLED INTO SOUTH AFRICA. SOURCE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY SPOT OR SWAP DEALS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND ADDED THAT PERTAMINA, AS PRACTICAL MATTER, WOULD AVOID SUCH SALES BECAUSE OF OUTCRY FROM OTHER CUSTOMERS/END-USERS AS WELL AS ARAB OPEC MEMBERS. SOURCE OPINED THAT JAPANESE OR U.S. BUYERS COULD CONCEIVABLY SELL INDONESIAN OIL TO SOUTH AFRICA WITHOUT PERTAMINA'S KNOWLEDGE BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION THIS WAS HAPPENING.

2. BECAUSE OF SWAP NATURE OF ALLEGED DEAL, EMBASSY ALSO CHECKED WITH WELL-PLACES SOURCE IN BAPPENAS (NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD). THIS PERSON HAD HEARD NOTHING ABOUT ANY SOUTH AFRICAN SALES AND WAS PERSONALLY WERY SKEPTICAL

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ABOUT ANY SUCH DEALS. COMMENT: SOURCE WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING POSSIBLE SWAP TRANSACTION INVOLVING INDONESIAN CRUDE FOR BRAZILIAN IRON ORE ON KRAKATAU STELL PROJECT AND IS PERSUMABLY IN A POSITION TO KNOW ABOUT OTHER SWAP ARRANGEMENTS. END COMMENT.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY HERE HAS ALSO RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORT FROM LONDON ASKING ABOUT POSSIBLE CRUDE DEALS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. BRITISH VERSION WAS THAT INDONESIAN CRUDE MIGHT ULTIMATELY BE DESTINED FOR RHODESIA. BRITISH EMBASSY REPORTED TODAY THEY HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION THROUGH THEIR SOURCES. BRITISH EMBOFF SAID THEY HAD SPECIFICALLY PROVEN FALSE A REPORT THAT SOME OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MATERIALS WERE INTENDED FOR THE KRAKATAU STELL PROJECT.

4. COMMENT: "LARGE AND REGULAR" SHIPMENTS OF CRUDE IMPLY SOMETHING ON THE ORDER OF 50,000-100,000 B/D. WE ARE UNAWARE OF A) THAT MUCH CRUDE, PRESUMABLY MINAS, BEING AVAILABLE OR B) FLOOD OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS INTO INDONESIA WHICH WOULD OFFSET THESE CRUDE SHIPMENTS. (PARA 1 REFTTEL). RIVES

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